

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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## ***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney  
Carol C. Lam***

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***For Further Information, Contact: Assistant U. S. Attorney Alberto A. Arevalo (619) 557-5557***

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***For Immediate Release***

### **NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - August 25, 2004**

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that a federal grand jury sitting in San Diego today handed up an eight-count indictment charging Cesar Gomez-Taboada with bringing in and transporting illegal aliens, resulting in death.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Alberto A. Arevalo, who is prosecuting the case, the charges in the indictment arise from Gomez-Taboada's alleged transportation of eleven undocumented persons in a Ford Explorer on July 31, 2004. The indictment alleges that Gomez-Taboada was driving the Explorer in East San Diego County on that date when he lost control of the vehicle and it rolled over. The rollover resulted in the death of one of the passengers and serious injury to another one.

Gomez-Taboada is scheduled to be arraigned on the indictment before Magistrate Judge Jan M. Alder on August 26, 2004.

United States Attorney Lam said that her office will continue to prosecute vigorously those who engage in human trafficking and thereby endanger the lives of undocumented aliens entering into the United States.

## **DEFENDANT**

CESAR GOMEZ-TABOADA

## **SUMMARY OF CHARGES**

- Count 1: Bringing In An Illegal Alien Resulting in Death  
18 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(i), (v)(II) and (a)(1)(B)(iv)  
Maximum penalty: life imprisonment, \$250,000 fine
- Count 2: Transportation of An Illegal Alien Resulting in Death  
18 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii), (v)(II) and (a)(1)(B)(iv)  
Maximum penalty: life imprisonment, \$250,000 fine
- Counts 3, 5, and 7: Bringing In Illegal Aliens for Financial Gain  
18 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(2)(B)(ii)  
Maximum penalty: at least five years but no more than fifteen years' imprisonment, \$250,000 fine
- Counts 4, 6, and 8: Transportation of Illegal Aliens  
18 U.S.C. § 1324(a)(1)(A)(ii)  
Maximum penalty: five years' imprisonment, \$250,000 fine

## **AGENCIES**

United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement-Human Trafficking Group  
California Highway Patrol  
United States Border Patrol

**An indictment is not evidence that the defendant committed the crimes charged. The defendant is presumed innocent until the Government meets its burden in court of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.**